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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations H-305, the Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Community Economic Engagement Initiative in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Houston Business Development, Inc. located at 5330 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021

The funding would be used for:

- 1. Provide a funding level of \$10,000,000 for BEC Economic Empowerment HUB: Minority Business and Job Creation to create a bridge to the Middle-Class Turnas a community project funding request. The intended recipient is Houston Business Development, Inc. located at 5330 Griggs Rd, Houston, TX 77021. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because when fully built, the BEC will establish a supportive minority economic ecosystem and establish a national model for ending poverty in historically underserved communities. BEC will serve 15,000 residents, launch over 50 businesses, create over 1,000 jobs, and deploy over \$3 million in the first two years.
- 2. Provide a funding level of \$1,500,000 for Safe Sidewalk and Path Connections as a community project funding request. The intended recipient is Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority located at 1980 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1380, Houston, TX 77056. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because this project will enhance multimodal connections and access to schools, transit, and major activity centers in a densifying area of Houston.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2) and/or 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson Lee Member of Congress